

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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(54) FLUID FILTER ELEMENT

(71) We, PUROLATOR, INC., a corporation organised under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, of 970 New Brunswick Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a fluid filter element of the substantially cylindrical, radial-flow type used in automotive oil filters.

Currently automotive oil filters having such filter elements are usually constructed to operate on the so-called full-flow, two-pass principle. When operating on this principle, all of the oil from the lubricating oil pump of the automotive engine passes through the filter and the filtering arrangement provides two filtration flow passes in parallel, one pass providing high efficiency filtration and the other pass providing lower efficiency filtration. The purpose of this is so that after prolonged service which results in dirt loading the filtering medium of the pass of higher efficiency so that its flow resistance becomes excessive, the fluid may thereafter continue to pass through the filtering medium providing the pass of lower filtration efficiency but which still provides some filtration. This delays the time when the fluid is bypassed around both passes by way of the usual bypass arrangement incorporated in such automotive oil filters and which operates when ultimately dirt loading results in the flow resistance of both passes being excessive.

Heretofore, the two passes have been provided in various manner none of which have been completely satisfactory. One example is the use of a cylinder formed from fibrous material compacted to differing degrees of density between radially interspaced perforated metal shells provided with of course, end caps to confine the radial flow. This construction is expensive to produce and uncertain in operation, but it is an example

of a two-pass arrangement of the depth filtration type. Another arrangement consists in the usual perforated metal center tube surrounded for a part of its length by the familiar pleated filter paper element and with its balance surrounded by a material which comprises curled shreds of wood and which is used for stuffing upholstery, for packing, etc., open pore sponge material, or other arrangements providing a rather coarse filtration of the depth type for the second pass, with end caps closing the ends. This construction has some service problems and is in addition expensive to make because it must include the perforated metal center tube which supports the filtering medium.

The object of the present invention is to provide a fluid filter element of the previously mentioned substantially cylindrical, radial flow type used in automotive oil filters and which provides for two-pass depth-type filtration by a construction that is relatively inexpensive to make while being capable of meeting usual service demands satisfactorily, and which will in general be an improvement insofar as this particular art is concerned.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a fluid filter element of the substantially cylindrical, radial-flow type for use in automotive oil filters, comprising a hollow cylinder formed of fibrous filter medium in web form coiled spirally on itself to provide enough convolutions to effect depth-type filtration, some of the convolutions being axially shortened than other convolutions and all of said convolutions having their ends flush with each other at one end of said cylinder whereby said cylinder comprises a plurality of coaxial portions of differing radial thicknesses and therefore differing radial fluid flow resistances, the coaxial portions being disposed one end to end with another.

In order that the invention may be more fully understood it will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Fig. 1 is a view of an automotive oil filter of the general kind described and having a filter element incorporating the principles of the present invention, this view being partly in elevation and partly in longitudinal section. 5

Fig. 2 is a view, again partly in elevation and partly in longitudinal section, of the filter element itself as it appears apart from the filter. 10

Fig. 3 is an exploded view showing the separate parts of the element of Fig. 2 and indicating the manner in which the parts are assembled. 15

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the making of an element incorporating the principles of this invention but with a construction somewhat different from that of the example shown by the preceding figures. 20

Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing this second form of the element. 25

Fig. 6 is an end view of Fig. 5 having a part broken away for illustrative purposes.

Fig. 7 represents in perspective an assembly of a modified form of the filter element shown as the second example, the part shown representing one portion only of that element; and 30

Fig. 8 is an end view of the above portion. Now, referring first to Figs. 1—3, the filter with which the new element is used is represented as being one in common use today. It is of the so-called screw-on throw-away type. 35

In other words, the filter includes the can 1 having a closed outer end and an open inner end closed by a flexible end cap or bottom 2 having a ring seal 3 and mounted on an internally threaded bushing 4. In use, the bushing 4 is screwed on the externally threaded stud of the filter pad of an automotive engine (not shown). This stud receiving the filtered oil for engine lubrication, the space on the pad between this bushing 40 and the seat against which the seal 3 seats being designed to eject the unfiltered oil from the engine, through openings 2a, in the bottom 2, into the can 1. Any filter element having a substantially cylindrical shape and 45 of the radial flow type and with the necessary end caps may be installed in such a filter so that the oil entering the inlets 2a fills the can, flows inwardly through the filter element and exits to the engine through the bushing 4.

Although the above is all that is needed to understand the use of the filter element of the present invention, since other parts are shown it is considered advisable to mention them. Thus, the part 5a is an anti-drain-back valve preventing draining of the filter when oil flow stops, the valve generally indicated at 5 is the bypass valve which opens after the filter element becomes so dirty that the oil must be bypassed because 50 of the high flow resistance through the element, and the part shown at 6 is the spring spider which holds and centers the upper end of the filter element. 55

The new filter element itself comprises a hollow cylinder 7 formed by fibrous filter medium in web form coiled on itself to provide enough convolutions to effect a radial thickness adequate for depth-type filtration. Suitable media may be of any fibrous material such as, for example, paper. If paper, it would ordinarily be of relatively greater thickness as compared to that used for wall-type filtration such as when in the case of the familiar pleated paper form. 60

A relatively large number of convolutions is required for this depth-type filtration and this results in considerable wall thickness, the entire element being impregnated with the resin ordinarily used with paper filters, and then cured by heating in the usual fashion. The result of this is a cylindrical filter which is rigid both radially and longitudinally so that all need for a perforated metal inner or support tube is eliminated. Obviously, no external perforated cylindrical casing is required. 65

With the above general understanding, attention is now called to the fact that as shown by the drawings the outer two convolutions 7a are axially longer than the other six convolutions 7b. The bottom ends of all the convolutions are flush and are closed by a metal end cap 8 internally forming a tubular, axially extending sleeve 9 pushed over the inwardly projecting end of the bushing 4 to hold and center the element. The outer end edges of the convolutions 7a are closed as is the space above the outer ends of the convolutions 7b by a second end cap 10 which, as shown, may have its central portion constructed to form a part of the bypass valve 5. The end caps 8 and 10 should be designed to force the fluid flow to travel inwardly through the element 7, as indicated by the arrows in Fig. 1, without bypassing unless the valve 5 opens. 70

In operation the oil flows inwardly through the convolutions 7a and 7b, the latter providing the more effective filtration until dirt loading increases the flow resistance to a point where the majority of the flow is through the convolutions 7a insofar as these portions extend above the convolutions 7b. The number of convolutions in each instance depends on the thickness of the medium used, the total wall thickness being, in any event, enough to assure adequate depth-type filtration and adequate structural strength after resin curing. Once 75 dirt loading occurs to a degree producing a pressure differential causing opening of the bypass valve 5, the filter element has reached the end of its life. 80

As shown in Fig. 1, sealing material 11 85

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3 forms a fluid-tight seal over the top edges of the shorter convolutions 7b to prevent the oil or other fluid being filtered from taking a shorter flow path than is indicated for 5 depth-type filtration. The seal may be effected by an annular metal disk (not shown) or by the use of any suitable sealing material which closes the top edges of the convolutions 7b fluid-tightly.

10 There are at least two ways of making this new filter element with differences in the details of its construction. In Figs. 2 and 3 the convolutions are formed as two separate coils of the medium in web form. The web coiled to form the inner or shorter coil of greatest radial depth, that is to say the convolutions 7b, is a web of fibrous material that is appreciably narrower than the web used to form the longer coil representing 15 the convolutions 7a. The two coils may be formed by known techniques, thereafter telescoped together, as represented by Fig. 3, impregnated with the conventional resin and cured by heat to form a rigid self-supporting 20 element. The sealing material 11 or other equivalent must of course be applied but this is a simple operation. Plainly, the result is much less expensive to manufacture 25 than the prior art constructions referred to hereinbefore.

30 In the example shown by Figs. 4, 5 and 6, the element is made from a single web of filter medium 12 so that only one coil results. The web of medium comprises two 35 juxtaposed portions of different width. Thus the portion 12a, after coiling to the form shown by Fig. 5, forms the equivalent of the projecting portions of the convolutions 7a of the first example, while the portion 12b forms the equivalent of the coil formed 40 by the convolutions 7b of the first example. In the end view shown by Fig. 6 the sealant 11 is shown which performs the same function it does in the case of the first example.

45 In the event an absolute filter rating must be met by the new element, a single convolution of a barrier medium 13 may, as indicated by Fig. 7, be slipped between two of the innermost ones of the convolutions 50 which may be either the convolutions 12b or the convolutions 7b of the first example. This barrier may consist of any of the sheet material filtering medium known to provide a positive barrier to all particles above 55 the predetermined micron size. In the present invention its purpose is only to catch any particles above such a size not entrapped by the depth-type filtering action. The barrier is for insurance purposes and should 60 extend axially for substantially the same axial distance as the longer convolutions 12a (or in the case of the first example, the convolutions 7a). The gap between the barrier 13 and the longer convolutions would be 65 sealed by a suitable end cap and the circum-

ferential gap between the exposed axial edges of the barrier where these extend beyond the shorter convolutions would be filled with sealant 11.

70 It can be seen that this invention provides for a filter element which, with proper selection of filter medium and design configuration with respect to the element's wall thickness, may provide a high efficiency filter having an extended life and at a more reasonable or less expensive cost than heretofore. The filter element being impregnated with the resin, and considering its thick wall, is rigid after curing so that the use of perforated supports is eliminated. The new filter is 75 suitable for use either in a throw-away casting as illustrated or as a replaceable element in the case of a replaceable element filter. The manufacture of the hollow cylinders represents no problems and existing manufacturing techniques are easily capable of assembling the components insofar as the metal end caps are concerned, and, in the case of the illustrated filter, the various parts required 80 for a complete assembly.

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WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A fluid filter element of the substantially cylindrical, radial-flow type for use in automotive oil filters, comprising a hollow cylinder formed of fibrous filter medium in web form coiled spirally on itself to provide enough convolutions to provide a radial thickness sufficient to effect depth-type filtration, some of the convolutions being axially shorter than other convolutions and all of said convolutions having their ends flush with each other at one end of said cylinder whereby said cylinder comprises a plurality of coaxial portions of differing radial thicknesses and therefore differing radial fluid flow resistances, the coaxial portions being disposed one end to end with another. 100

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2. A fluid filter element according to claim 1, wherein said hollow cylinder possesses sufficient structural strength so as to be radially self-supporting against the fluid pressure when in service. 105

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3. A fluid filter element according to claim 2, wherein said structural strength has been developed by impregnation of the element with resin and the curing of said resin. 115

4. A fluid filter element according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said cylinder comprises a single web of filter medium, the web comprising juxtaposed portions of different widths to thus provide said convolutions of differing axial length. 120

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5. A fluid filter element according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said cylinder comprises two separate coils of said filter medium in web form, the web forming the first coil having an appreciably narrower width than that forming the second coil, said coils being in telescoped relationship.

6. A fluid filter element according to claim 4 or claim 5, including fluid sealing means disposed over the top edges of the shorter convolutions.

5 7. A fluid filter element according to claim 6, including a sheet material filter layer interleaved with the axially shorter convolutions.

8. A fluid filter element according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

For the Applicants:

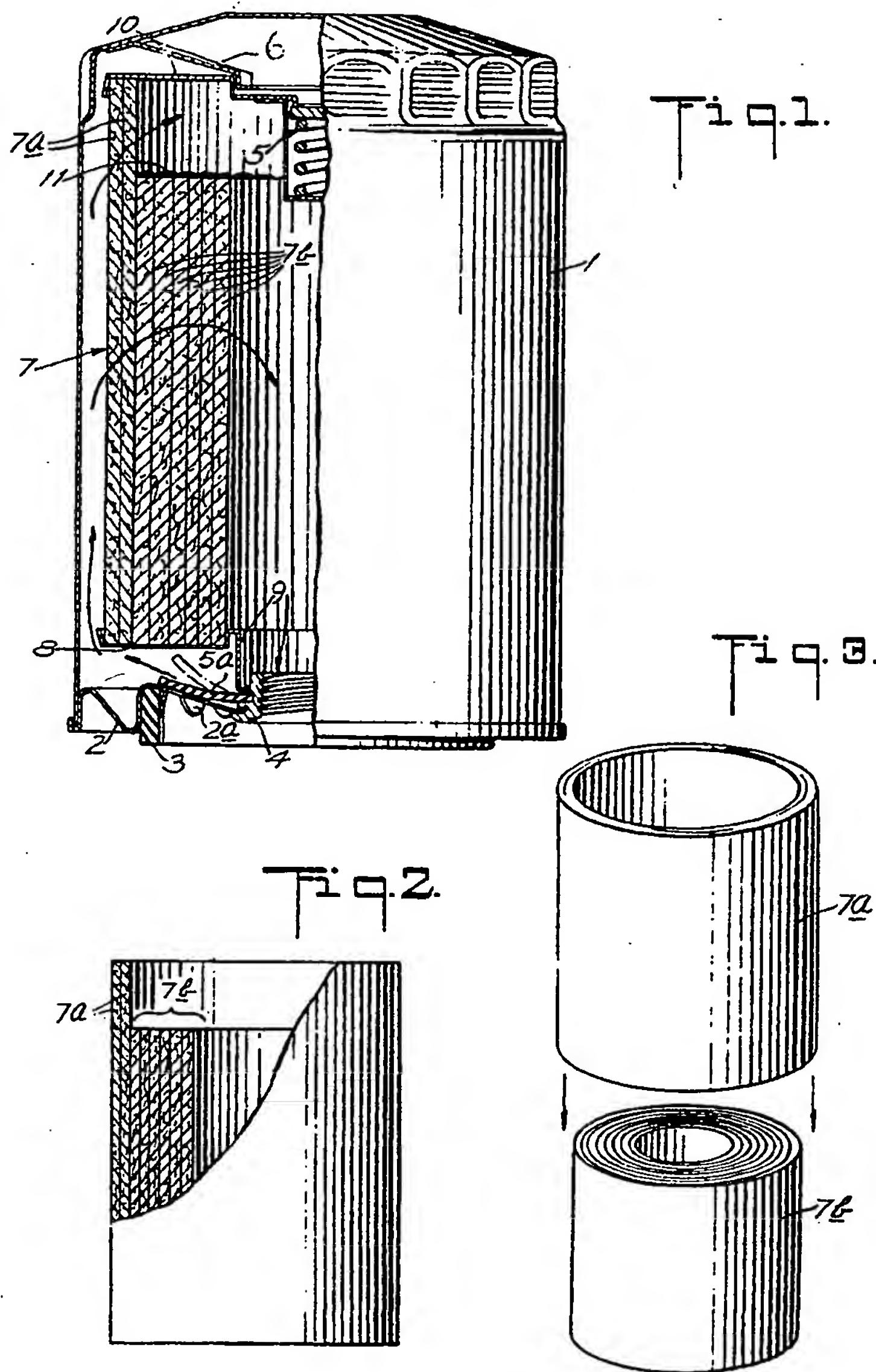
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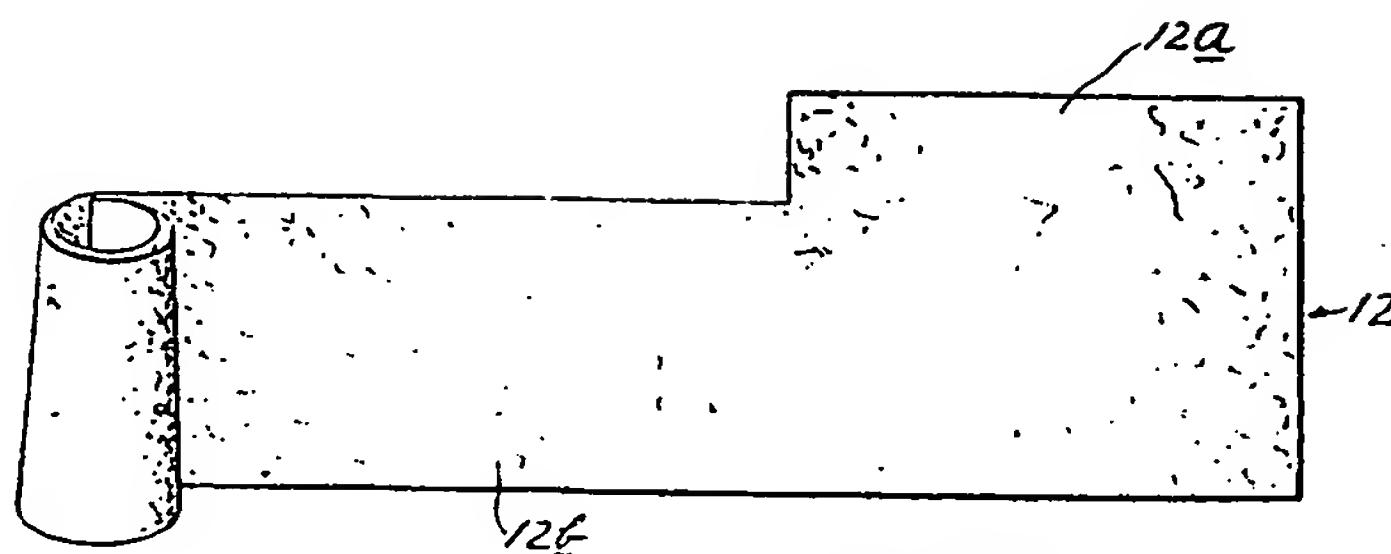


FIG. 4.

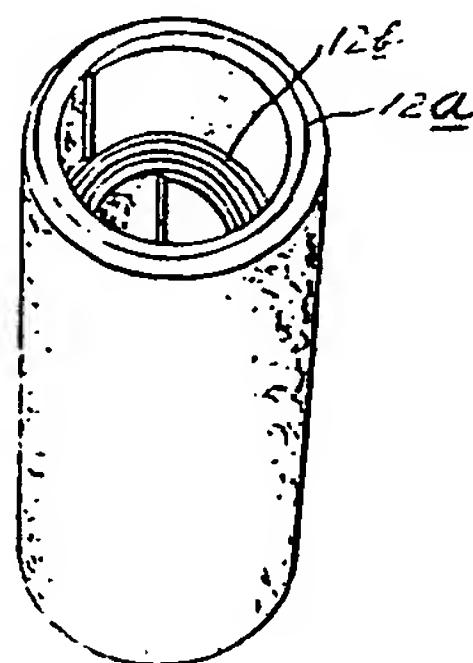


FIG. 5.

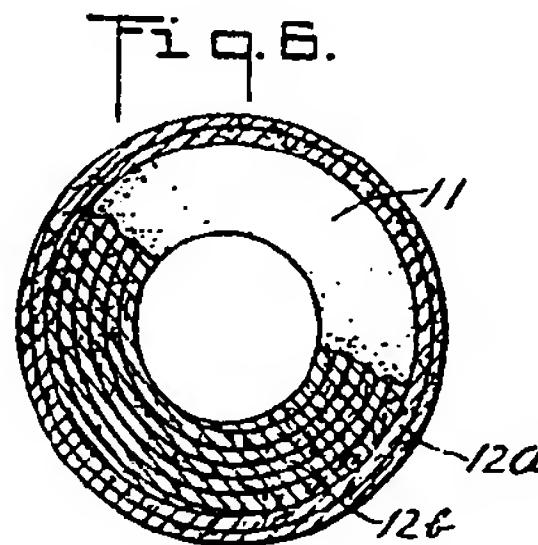


FIG. 6.

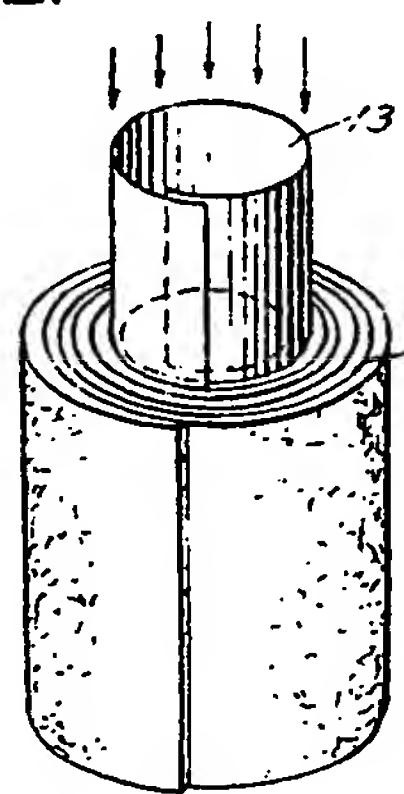


FIG. 7.

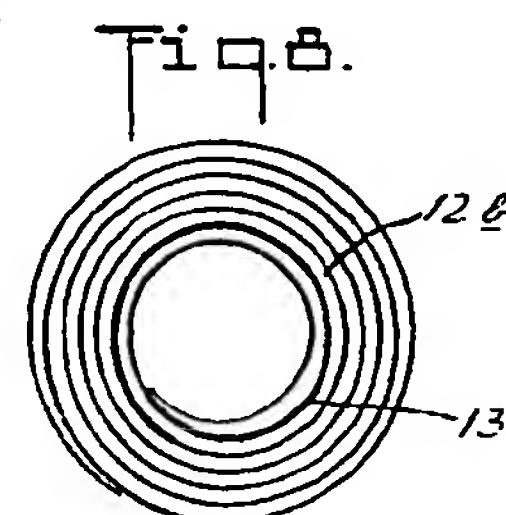


FIG. 8.